



DONOR IMPACT

2023





GIVING  
EXTRAORDINARY  
KIDS A CHANCE  
TO BE ORDINARY



"Be prepared to have fun, and  
learn so much about yourself and  
how brave you really are!"

~ 2023 Brigadoon Camper

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE	04
HIGHLIGHTS	05
TOP 5 MAGIC MOMENTS	06
THANK YOU	08
MAGIC MAKERS	09
IT TAKES A VILLAGE	10

THANKS  
TO YOU!



# YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!

## WEEK ONE

**Camp Silly-Yak**  
Celiac Disease

**Leadership Camp**  
Mixed Conditions

## WEEK TWO

**Camp Braveheart**  
Heart Conditions

**Camp Clots-o-Fun**  
Bleeding Disorders

**Camp Trailblazers**  
Craniofacial Differences

## WEEK THREE

**Arthritis Society Canada's  
Camp JoinTogether**  
Juvenile Arthritis

## WEEK FOUR

**Camp Kedooopse**  
Family Bereavement

**Camp BELIEVE**  
Parental Mental Illness

## WEEK FIVE

**Camp Lots-a-Wata**  
Kidney Disease

**Camp Whatcha Say**  
Deaf or Hard of Hearing

## WEEK SIX

**Camp See-Ya**  
Blind or Visually Impaired

**Camp Carpe Diem**  
Epilepsy

**Camp Brainiac**  
Neurosurgery Conditions

**Camp Scoliosis**  
Scoliosis

## WEEK SEVEN

**Camp Guts & Glory**  
Crohn's, Colitis, Ostomy, Cecostomy

## WEEK EIGHT

**Canadian Cancer Society's  
Camp Goodtimes**  
Living With or Beyond Cancer

## WEEK NINE

**Camp Treasure Chest**  
Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Lung Conditions



# HIGHLIGHTS



# TOP 5 MAGIC MOMENTS

By Malcolm Elliot

**1. Our Junior Counsellor Program** (JCP) is for campers who have graduated from our Summer Camp age group and would like to explore becoming a Brigadoon volunteer or counsellor. This is an excellent way for campers to stay connected while learning to be a strong role model to fellow campers.

2023 was our fourth year offering this program, and we had nine former campers participate - double more than ever! It's a really special feeling for campers to return to the place that was such an integral part of their childhood and development, give back to the community, and help create magical camp experiences for the next generation of Brigadoon campers. Thank you to our donors who make this program possible so they can experience the joy of helping others in need.

## 2. Camp Treasure Chest

serves campers with lung conditions and anaphylactic allergies. One of the unfortunate realities for our campers with anaphylactic allergies is that they can't eat many foods that most of us get to enjoy regularly and often take for granted.

This summer at Camp Treasure Chest, they made donuts as part of the cooking program. The goal was to teach them to make donuts that were delicious AND safe to eat. There were several campers in the group who – because of this – were able to create and taste a donut for the very first time in their lives! Campers were very proud of their creations and grateful to go home and share their new cooking skills with their families.

## 3. The giant swing

is a big hanging cable that campers harness into, and as the rest of their group pulls on a rope to haul them up, the camper release themselves and swing to great heights. It is truly loads of fun but can also be an intense and intimidating experience for some.

One day this summer, a camper climbed to the top of the ladder, but the heights were too much for him to try on his first attempt. After taking some time to watch others try it and talking with his counsellor about the experience and challenging himself, he decided that he would like to try again. The whole group cheered and supported him, and he did it!

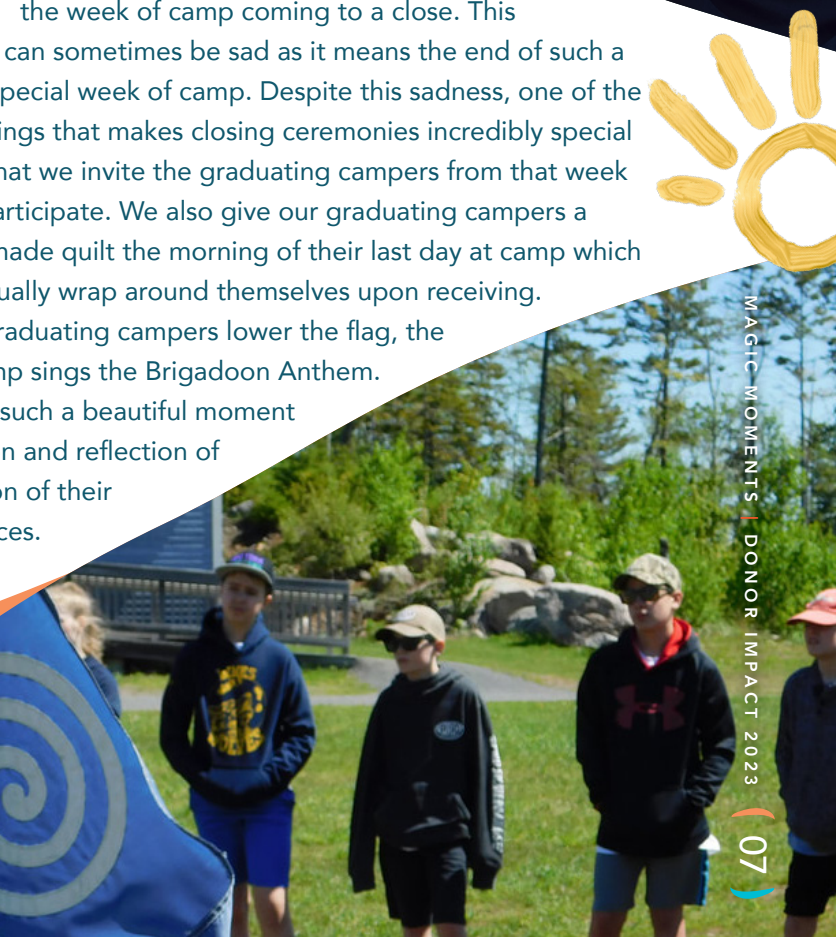
*Not only did he get to have the really fun experience of the giant swing, but he was also able to walk away from that experience feeling successful and knowing that he is brave and can do hard things and overcome challenges.*

**4. Given the circumstances** of their life challenges, some of our campers who come to Camp BELIEVE (our camp for those living with parental mental illness or addiction) can sometimes struggle to make connections with others.

One camper, in particular, was very hesitant to attend the sharing circle near the end of the week this summer. However, he made the brave choice to attend to support a new friend that he made during his week at camp. This camper also made sure to stop the sharing circle and get the group to make room as another camper joined the circle a little late. We're very proud of how much this young camper grew during his week at camp and know the skills he learned to build connections will serve him well later in life.

## 5. At the end of each week,

we lower the flag to symbolize the week of camp coming to a close. This can sometimes be sad as it means the end of such a special week of camp. Despite this sadness, one of the things that makes closing ceremonies incredibly special is that we invite the graduating campers from that week to participate. We also give our graduating campers a handmade quilt the morning of their last day at camp which they usually wrap around themselves upon receiving. As the graduating campers lower the flag, the whole camp sings the Brigadoon Anthem. It is always such a beautiful moment of celebration and reflection of the culmination of their camp experiences.





**"It's a place where you feel like you can be you without judgement. A super warm and supportive staff, a place to make new friends and so many activities. Lots of fun!"**

~ Lucy, Brigadoon Camper

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS**



Hydrostone



## MAGIC MAKERS Sky Guards Team

By Cameron Dauphinee

For seven years, I have had the honour of being a staff member at Brigadoon Village. Each year, camp has given me more tools to better the lives of the people around me and my own.

Summer 2023 was an incredible growth year for me and my amazing High Ropes team. With some adjustments to our fun-filled summer camp schedule, the team provided High Ropes programming to almost 85 percent of our campers. Our program area provides our campers with an experience that would only be possible for most of them at camp. So many times, our campers get told they cannot do things due to their illnesses and conditions.

Providing that opportunity to tell our campers "yes" and helping them push themselves into their challenge zones has been life-changing for our team. Showing campers that they can trust the people around them and that they can do the activities that everybody else gets to do, helps to show them that they can do even more than what they thought was possible and will always have a support system to do so.

Words cannot describe how grateful I am to Cole, Ryan, Will, Megan, Emma, Tina, Aslan, Lauryn and Jordan, the incredible team in the sky this year, for doing everything they could to give our campers a next-level experience. The countless hours this team put in have provided our campers with lifelong memories and an even stronger understanding that they can do whatever they put their minds to.



## MAGIC MAKERS Housekeeping Team

By Shelley Hardy

I began working seasonally on the housekeeping staff at Brigadoon in 2017. This spring, I was offered the opportunity to become full-time as the Head Housekeeper. I accepted this with no hesitation! Brigadoon is not just my place of work, but it is my 2nd family. We all have the same goal: to make campers' lives a bit brighter. We all work together to make this happen. Our #1 value is Campers First, and we do all that we can to uphold that and keep them safe in all aspects.

Over the summer months, my team consists of 4 full-time cleaners and myself. Brigadoon has grown significantly over the past few years, and we now have 23 buildings on site. We are kept pretty busy! We work very hard to keep things clean and safe for our campers.

Infection control is a huge part of what we do each day. You can't see germs, so just because something looks clean, it might not be. Many of our campers have suppressed immune systems, so we are diligent about our cleaning processes. Every cabin is cleaned twice daily, and all other areas are cleaned at least once daily. Between each camp, a deep clean is done of all cabins and common areas. We have a variety of environmentally friendly cleaners that we use depending on the circumstances.

Seeing the impact that we have on our campers is so rewarding. Lives are changed by just one week of camp, and I am proud to be a part of that. Brigadoon has an environment like no other place that I have ever experienced. This is the most positive, caring, friendly, fun, helpful, supportive and loving place ever. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of this organization.



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE



## Third party event Gerard MacDonald

Gerard MacDonald, semi-retired physician living in Antigonish, has been supporting Brigadoon Village for over a decade through cycling fundraisers (large & small). Gerard had gone out to family, friends & colleagues asking for support so that more children can have the opportunity to spend an amazing week at camp.

Gerard raised over \$6,500 this summer on our new DIY Fundraising Website. Over the years he has raised over \$50,000 for Brigadoon. He has cycled his way into the hearts of Brigadoon campers & families! Thanks Gerard for all that you do for Brigadoon.

## Legacy Donor, Founding Board Member and friend Allan Horsburgh

Allan has been involved with Brigadoon as an advisor to the organization since it was just a concept. He went on to serve on Brigadoon's Board of Directors for eight years, many of them as Treasurer. Allan chose to leave a gift in his will because he saw something different and unique in Brigadoon in what it provides to children living with chronic illness. He believes that the skills and confidence that Brigadoon campers gain will be game-changers for them in how they manage their illness and also support others in doing the same.

As a father to a child with life-long medical conditions, Allan understands the impact a camp experience can have on these children and feels strongly about Brigadoon's mission and vision which aligns strongly with his own personal values.



## Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia

Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia have been supporting Brigadoon Village over the years by donating over \$45,000 as well as a lot of farm fresh eggs. In 2022 they became our matching donor for our Holiday Mail Appeal, helping to increase the donations coming in for that campaign which helps support the cost of getting kids to camp.

In 2023 they made another generous donation to Brigadoon to help with our ever growing costs to ensure nutritional meals are provided to our campers and staff throughout the summer. We think they are pretty EGGcellent!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Brigadoon!



## McCain Foundation

The McCain Foundation's support is like the gift that just keeps on giving. Their generosity has helped hundreds of campers conquer obstacles long after leaving camp. Whether it's the resilience needed to go through another round of treatment, the independence to advocate for their own care needs, the confidence to push beyond their comfort zone at school, or the connection from friendships that will help them feel less alone in their day-to-day struggles – these are the gifts that the McCain Foundation has provided to campers to carry with them for life. Thank you, McCain Foundation for making a tremendous difference in the lives of children and youth living with chronic illness and other life challenges!

## Steele Auto

Steele Auto Group believes in investing in community focused organizations with a focus on family.

At Brigadoon Village it's all about our amazing campers (and their families). Steele generously sponsored our coveted Camp T-Shirts this year and ensured that our campers, staff and volunteers were decked out in the coolest t's in town. Our campers collect their Brigadoon t-shirts from one year to the next and it helps them think back to the amazing week that they spent making connections and having fun. Thank you Steele Auto Group for helping to make magic!



## Brigadoon Believer From the Start Remembering Marjorie Lindsay

This past July, we were honored to be included in the celebration of life for Marjorie Lindsay. Long before our facility was built, Marjorie believed in the concept of Brigadoon and the impact it would have on thousands of children.

From the very beginning, Marjorie said "Brigadoon will achieve so much more than anyone thought possible". Passionate about mental health, children, the camp experience and carrying on her husband's legacy, Marjorie made a significant donation to our first capital campaign, "Building Brigadoon". In recognition of this generous contribution, a camper cabin was named in her husband's honour. Her belief in Brigadoon was unmistakable. "Never underestimate the power of a talking woman. I'd like to think that somewhere along the line, I've encouraged people to either become actively involved with Brigadoon or help fund it. It's opening a whole new world to young people and I think that's very exciting."

We are forever grateful to Marjorie for her support and belief in Brigadoon Village.






# THANK you!


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